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# BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## BULLETIN

Vol. 10 No. 1 October 1946

Editor: Jean Porter
Victoria Public Library
Victoria, B. C.

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B. C. L. A. Officers 1946-1947

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| Honorary President | - | Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir |
| President | - | Mrs. Christine R. MacNamee |
| Past President | - | Miss Irene McAfee |
| Vice-President | - | Miss Bessie Greenwood |
| Secretary | - | Mr. Jack Lort |
| Treasurer | - | Mrs. Ruth Goodall |

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The thirty-fifth annual conference of the British Columbia Library Association convened at 9:30 a.m. in the Hotel Malaspina, Nanaimo, B. C. on May 13th, 1946. Miss Irene McAfee, President, was in the chair.

The morning and afternoon sessions were given over mainly to discussion and acceptance of committee reports.

Miss McAfee reported a grant of $500 to the B. C. L. A. from the Public Library Commission. To receive this grant, B. C. L. A. will have to incorporate under the Societies' Act. To make this grant, the Public Libraries Act had been opened and a clause enabling the Public Library Commission to make a grant to societies such as B. C. L. A. inserted.

Dr. Lamb reported Dr. Weir had given sympathetic and encouraging hearing to the delegation presenting the report of the Joint Committee on Library Policy. Due to the direct relationship of the whole matter with provincial-municipal affairs, action had to await the Goldenberg report. Miss Irene McAfee and Mr. E. S. Robinson presented the case for libraries to the Goldenberg Commission. In submitting the report two additional recommendations were made, namely:

> That the provincial government assume 50% of building costs of all public libraries in the province; and that the provincial government contributions to the cost of operations of libraries be made specifically for libraries, and not as a general grant to the municipality.

Considerable time was devoted to amending the constitution of the B. C. L. A. Sections altered were: Membership, Dues and Fees, and Nominations and Elections. The revised scale of fees is:

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| <u>Individual Active Dues</u> | |
| Certified and/or trained librarians | - $5.00 |
| Certified and/or trained librarians joining within one year of library school shall pay for that year | - 3.00 |
| Untrained staff | - 2.00 |
| <u>Institutional Dues</u> | |
| Budget up to $19,999 | - $5.00 |
| " 20,000 and up | - 10.00 |
| <u>Life Membership</u> | |
| Not eligible until five years before retirement | - $25.00 |

Copies of the Constitution as amended are to be distributed to the members.

Resolutions were adopted as follows:

That the Association apply for affiliation with the Vancouver and New Westminster District Trades and Labour Council, and with the Victoria District Trades and Labor Council on a basis of members actually resident within these areas.

That the following resolution be forwarded to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, to be presented at its national convention in September:

> "Resolved that the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada appoint a permanent Committee on Libraries, similar to the permanent Committee on Education, and that this committee be instructed to bring down a report on "Better Libraries for Canada" at the next annual convention."

That B. C. L. A. go on record as approving the Constitution of the Canadian Library Association in principle.

That the B. C. L. A. recommend that all members of the Advisory Council of C. L. A. be elected by the provincial library associations.

That the B. C. L. A. recommend to the library boards of British Columbia that partial financial assistance be given by them to any B. C. L. A. member employed on their own staff, who is elected as a representative of B. C. L. A. to meetings of other library organizations.

Most of the afternoon session was taken up with discussion of the thorough and comprehensive report of the Committee on Salaries, Staff and Tenure.

The Convention concluded with a banquet held in the Banquet Room, Malaspina Hotel, at 7:00 p.m. Guests included The Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir, Minister of Education and speaker of the evening; His Worship the Mayor of Nanaimo; Mr. George Darling, Chairman of the Board of Management, V. I. Union Library; and Mr. Stronach, also of the Board of Management.

The evening opened with a welcoming speech by Mayor Muir. A vote of thanks was extended by Mrs. Muriel Ffoulkes. Miss McAfee then introduced Dr. Weir, speaker of the evening, whose subject was "The Educational Barometer in British Columbia."

Dr. Weir commented favourably on the Programme for Library Development which had been submitted to him by the Joint Committee, and indicated that the Goldenberg Report should have important bearing on the financing of library facilities in British Columbia.

He went on to compare the old education and the new, and their results as shown in a recent Dominion-wide survey in which British Columbia ranked high among the provinces. Recent changes in the Education Act were discussed, and probable advances in adult education in the future. A copy of Dr. Weir's speech is on file in the B. C. L. A. archives.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

The B. C. L. A. executive has appointed the following conveners for the year 1946-1947:

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| Co-ordination of Fees Committee | Miss Ruth Cameron |
| Constitution Committee | - Mrs. C. Ellis |
| Employment Committee | - Miss Jean Fannin |
| Legislation Committee | - Mr. Peter Grossman |
| Membership Committee | - Mrs. Ruth Goodall |
| Public Relations Committee | - Miss Eleanor Mercer |
| Salary, Staff & Tenure Committee | - Miss Thressa Pollock |
| Scholarship Committee | - Miss Anne M. Smith |

LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Labor Relations Committee was appointed as follows:

Mrs. Margaret Brunette
Miss Mary Henderson
Mr. C. K. Mattson
Miss Isabelle Pike
Miss Mary Rendall (Chairman)

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FRASER VALLEY UNION LIBRARY

An agreement has been signed bringing School District No. 33 into the Library Area. The F. V. U. L. now consists of School Districts No. 33, 34, 35, 36 and 42, and the City of Port Coquitlam. An agreement with the Village of Hope is under consideration.

Another clerical assistant has been employed bringing the Headquarters staff of the Library to six.

Among the visitors to the Library this summer were Mlle. Loisillier from France, Mr. Soars from Peace River, Mrs. Ffoulkes of the Okanagan Union Library and Miss McKenzie from Ontario, who is now at U. B. C.

The new Book Van has not yet arrived, and the old one falls apart a little more every day.

OKANAGAN UNION LIBRARY

Consolidation of school districts under the Cameron Report is bringing Penticton into the Okanagan Union Library.

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NELSON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Much activity is reported by the Nelson Municipal Library in its attractive newly-decorated quarters.

The Kootenay Division of the B. C. Honey Producers' Association recently asked the Library to accept, catalogue, and circulate a number of its books and magazines.

Samples of the Library's stationery stock were sent to Revelstoke to help start a library there. While on holidays this summer, Miss Irving visited the library in its quarters in the City Hall.

Close co-operation exists between schools and the Library. Classes have visited the Library. Definite results have been achieved by the loan of book jackets for display. One School librarian had twice asked for assistance in ordering books for her library. The Library has made a point of recommending any books that will help to break race prejudice, and even fostered a discussion group of teen-agers, who have held some exceedingly lively conversations on inter-racial justice and true democracy.

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PRINCE RUPERT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following report was received from Miss Olive van Cooten, Librarian of the Prince Rupert Public Library:

It was decided by the Library Board to make inquiries from the Civic Centre authorities to see if space would be available in that building to house the Library. The Civic Centre Board agreed to our having the erstwhile Game Room and two adjoining rooms which now house our Library, the opening date was October 15th.

The present quarters of the Library are a distinct asset, as much more shelving space is available, and the rooms are spacious and airy, heretofore we were unable to put many of our books on the shelves, there being simply no room for them.

The Library has 2028 active borrowers and a total of 10,000 books--275 of this number being reference books. Our monthly circulation averages roughly 1,610, and

the Library acquires between 75 to 85 books monthly, covering Fiction, Non-fiction and Juvenile.

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PROVINCIAL LIBRARY — A definite division between the Provincial Library and the Public Library Commission has been effected. The Provincial Government announced that effective October 1st, Willard Ireland, who left his position as Provincial Archivist to join the armed forces during the war, would combine the positions of Provincial Archivist and Provincial Librarian. C. K. Morison, formerly Provincial Librarian retains the post of Superintendent of the Public Library Commission.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION — Effective as of October 1st, the superintendency of the Public Library Commission was restored to the status of a full-time position. This implements recommendations made by the Commission and by the Superintendent during the past two years, due to the growing responsibilities and operations of the Commission. Mr. Morison continues as Superintendent. The salary schedule for professional librarians throughout the Provincial Government service has been upgraded.

Good progress is being made on the library "frontier" at Prince George and Dawson Creek. Despite shortage of building supplies, a start at least has been made on the new library building at Prince George. Temporary and unsatisfactory quarters constitute a handicap for the moment at Dawson Creek, but an agreement has been made with Peace River South School District for commodious quarters in a building which will house both school headquarters and library headquarters for the Peace River District.

Reorganization of school districts has involved the union library districts in major problems which are still far from being settled, but good reports have come in from certain areas. New school districts have already joined the library districts, thus increasing library population and corresponding income. The Commission is lending all possible support in the way of negotiations with Provincial and local authorities, financial assistance, and the assurance of temporary help, if necessary, in the matter of school library service. Assurance of help has similarly been given by the Department of Education in tiding over the libraries in the transition period of school district reorganization.

Appropriations for grants-in-aid were this year increased from $5,000 to $9,000. The Honourable the Minister of Education has to date approved grants, recommended by the Commission, to the amount of $7,765. Beneficiaries include 14 Public Library Associations, the 3 Union Libraries, and the B. C. Library Association. Revelstoke is the latest Public Library Association to revive activities and to benefit from Provincial aid.

A committee of librarians under the chairmanship of Mr. Walter Lanning is preparing a revision of the "Manual for Small School Libraries", which should go to press toward the end of October.

Widespread approval has been expressed of the Union Library Institute held in Nanaimo immediately following the B. C. L. A. convention in May, and there is an evident desire that this be continued as a regular annual meeting. Mr. Peter Grossman has been asked to make arrangements for 1947.

At the request of the regional librarians, the Commission has taken up with Provincial authorities the question of legislation to permit superannuation of employees of union libraries. Despite the opinion of many librarians that regional libraries offer the most attractive kind of public library employment, the union libraries in this Province are still at a serious disadvantage in respect of salaries and wages. Satisfactory provision for superannuation should remove at least one handicap.

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VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

A three day visit to Seattle and Portland branches was recently made by Mr. G. Stanley Miller, chairman of the Board, Mr. Harry Boyce, member of the Board, and Mr. George C. Nairne of McCarter and Nairne, Mr. C. E. Pratt of Thompson, Berwick and Pratt, and Mr. L. Humphrey of Townley & Matheson, all architects. Mr. Richards and Miss Unger as well as board members of these cities gave freely of their time and hospitality to see that everything was done to provide information regarding their branch library system. Many fine buildings were seen in both cities where branch service has been featured for many years, Seattle having 10 large branches and Portland 16 of a smaller type.

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VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

One of the first things the newly-elected staff executive did upon taking office was to write to all the British Columbia M. P.'s re the confiscation of all Nazi publications. Eight replies were received--seven against destruction of the publications, and one in favour.

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VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

On display at the Victoria Public Library this month, has been the first typescript copy of "Remember Me". The author, Edward F. Meade, a Victoria resident, writes in a letter to Miss Clay, accompanying the gift of the manuscript: "The library has given me so much of my education that I am especially and sentimentally attached to it. I almost lived in it, back in the dark thirties when time was about all one possessed. If you had provided beds in the rotunda, I am sure you would have had me for a star boarder. Anyway, I have so much to thank the library for, that I'll take this opportunity to do it.

This first novel by a new Canadian writer is the story of a Canadian soldier in England and in Normandy. Mr. Meade says of his choice of title: "My chief point in naming the book was my desire that the world should not easily or early forget what men like O'Rourke died for. Our future security may very well be limited to the duration of our memory and no more."

Published in England, by Faber, in June, "Remember Me" is already in its third printing (18,000 copies). Ryerson Press is handling it in Canada, and is bringing out the Canadian edition.

Miss Clay and Miss Pollock attended the Canadian Library Association and the A. L. A. Conferences held last June at Hamilton and Buffalo. After the meetings Miss Clay visited libraries in Eastern Canada and in the United States as far south as New Orleans.

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PERSONALITIES AT BUFFALO

Guest speaker at the final session was Dr. David E. Lilienthal, Director of T. V. A. He had promised Miss Mary Rothrock, librarian for the same hill-billy country of Tennessee, that he would be on his best company behaviour in Buffalo, even to the extent of wearing his shoes. He said they hurt. As one of the five men responsible for the "Report on the International Control of

Atomic Energy" released by the U. S. State Department, Dr. Lilienthal had particularly good reason to be impressed with the possible benefit to mankind of technological advance, as his years of experience in the T. V. A. had afforded practical demonstration of progress in the same direction. His address was an inspiration to the furthering of human well-being, for which, in his opinion, a faith in the essential goodness of men was a basic essential.

Mary V. Rothrock, a native of Tennessee and organizer of public library service for a region in the Tennessee Valley that is larger than England, is the new President of the American Library Association. Seeing her and listening to her preside at the final session of the Buffalo conference, one felt that no better selection of a president could have been made at a time when we need in our leaders, more than ever before, an abounding understanding and love of ordinary human beings in every walk of life, a healthy disregard for senseless convention and frill, and a determination to meet the terrific problems of today with all the intelligence and energy at our command; and last but not least, a true sense of balance and a live sense of humour.

- C. K. Morison.

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LIBRARIES' SUPERVISOR FOR SCHOOLS APPOINTED

(From Saskatchewan News)

REGINA--A former Saskatchewan school teacher and graduate in Library Science from the University of Toronto, Miss L. E. Evans has been appointed School Libraries' Supervisor for Saskatchewan, it has been announced by Education Minister W. S. Lloyd.

A newly-created position, the school library-supervisor will be head of the school libraries division of the Provincial Public Information Library. Miss Evans will be available to help solve the Public, High and Normal School library problems in an advisory capacity, Mr. Lloyd said.

Her assistance will be invaluable in the creation of larger school unit libraries, Mr. Lloyd added, and she will co-operate with school superintendents in organizing and administering school libraries throughout the province.

Miss Evans will also assist in planning and co-ordinating the course in library work at Normal Schools, and will lecture on library science there.

One of her first duties will be to assist with the revision of supplementary reading lists issued by the Saskatchewan Book Bureau, said Mr. Lloyd.

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PERSONAL NOTES

Abbott: Miss Pauline Abbott has been appointed to the Victoria Public Library staff as assistant in the Children's Room and in the Circulation Department. Miss Abbott formerly taught school at Invermere.

Alldritt: Miss Marjorie Alldritt of the Victoria Public Library is attending the University of British Columbia. Miss Alldritt won the Kathleen Agnew Scholarship in Canadian History at Victoria College last May and received the second prize in the essay competition sponsored by the B. C. Historical Association as part of the Oregon Boundary Treaty Centenary programme this summer.

Angus: Miss Margaret Angus has joined the staff of the Victoria Public Library as a student apprentice.

Creelman: Miss Margaret Creelman resigned from the Vancouver Public Library to become head of Travelling Libraries, Department of Education, Toronto.

Dowding: Miss Elizabeth Dowding, formerly of the W.R.C.N.S. joined the staff of the Victoria Public Library as secretary to Miss Clay.

Fraser: Miss M. Doreen Fraser was appointed assistant to Miss Jeannette Sargent in the North-Central Branch of the Public Library Commission at Prince George, where she took up her duties in June. Miss Fraser was formerly on the staff of the University of Alberta, and served for some years as a lieutenant in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service.

Hodges: Miss Monica Hodges has resigned from the Vancouver Public Library to attend the University of British Columbia.

Holland: Miss Virginia Holland, of the staff of the Vancouver Public Library was married to Mr. Percival Bland of Vancouver in the spring.

Horwood: Miss Ruby Horwood, formerly of the Okanagan Union Library, has taken a post with the T. B. Clinic Library at the Vancouver General Hospital.

Knox: Miss Evelyn Knox of the Vancouver Public Library has resigned to attend the University of British Columbia.

Lockett: Miss Connie Lockett of the Vancouver Public Library was married to William G. Steele on September 14th, 1946.

McCloy: Mr. T. R. McCloy joined the staff of the Provincial Library in September. Previous to service in the Canadian Army, he had experience in Fraser Valley Union Library and the University of Saskatchewan Library. He also served overseas in the Khaki University of Canada.

Maitland: Miss Jessie Maitland of the Vancouver Public Library was married to Robert Dundas on September 28, 1946.

Matheson: Miss Joan Matheson of the Victoria Public Library has been granted leave of absence to take her final year at the University of British Columbia.

Milne: The retirement of Mr. Francis Milne on September 1st, as foreman of the Library Bindery, was celebrated at a staff party, when Mr. Milne was presented with a pair of blankets and a trolling rod and reel. Mr. Milne has been foreman of the Bindery since its beginning in 1924 and left his position with the best wishes of his many friends. Mr. Eric Thorpe has been appointed his successor.

Shephard: Miss Margo Shephard has joined the staff of the Victoria Public Library as a student apprentice.

Strachan: Miss Margaret F. Strachan joined the staff of the Public Library Commission in May as Branch Librarian for the Peace River Branch, with headquarters at Dawson Creek. Miss Strachan's activities will be largely concerned at the outset with organization of school library service throughout the Peace River District, for which she has an excellent background, both in teaching and in library experience. Miss Strachan is assisted by Miss Alma Lott, who was for some years on the staff of Vancouver Public Library.

Wilson: Miss Georgana Wilson, formerly of the Provincial Library, on receiving her discharge from the W.R.C.N.S., joined the staff of the Victoria Public Library.

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LIBRARIANS WANTED: There are three vacancies in Victoria for trained librarians. Starting salary is $1440 plus cost-of-living bonus, and rises to $1740 plus cost-of-living bonus. Those interested, please apply to The Civil Service Commission.

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STENOGRAPHER WANTED: A Stenographer is wanted for the Library at Prince George. Apply to the Civil Service Commission.

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